

## ART ROUNDUP

## Obsession and mad invention spark 'Art Bravo!'

BY CANDICE RUSSELL  
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Variety and mad invention spark "Art Bravo!," at ArtServe in Fort Lauderdale through Nov. 9. From Jackie O'Neal's *Run Wild, Run Free*, a painted wooden bench that takes a cue from graffiti artist Keith Haring, to languorously beautiful landscapes by a number of artists, this exhibition rocks. Now that ArtServe and the neighboring library with which it shares space have been spared closing, as was threatened last month by the county commission, the fall and winter season schedule can proceed as planned.

Virginia Fifield won best in show and \$1,000 for her traditional oil on canvas, the serene *Urban Landscape*. It depicts a ranch house at night surrounded by tall pine trees and protected by a plaster statue of

the Virgin Mary near the front door. The statue seems illuminated with a holy glow by the front porch light.

Obsession and control mark Judy Polstra's symmetrical, well-conceived chairs festooned with color-coordinated buttons and beads. These non-functional dazzling works reflect the artist's mania for collecting pretty things from decades past and carefully arranging them for dramatic effect. Both her *Sun Chair*, fit for an Aztec king's palace, and *Red Chair* are truly inspired works. The same can be said of Marie Donze's *Baroque Vase*, a tall glass creation of gorgeous autumnal colors with leaf and sun designs.

Mary Belle Cordell employs the felicitous touch of a Dutch master on her still life paintings on porcelain tiles, especially *The Pear*. The deep greens and nearly abstract shapes of trees mark Herb Pulliam's mixed me-

dia *River Shadows of the Morning Light* as something extraordinary. There's a folk art touch in Linda Payne's trio of monotypes with the title *North Carolina*. She depicts rocking chairs and twisting back roads to suggest the flavor of country life. Tereza Hazelton's oil painting *Winter Morning*, with a river, wispy trees poking out of the snow and a church in the distance. She captures the sense of cold as vividly as a specific place.

For more information, call 954-462-8190 or visit [artserve.org](http://artserve.org).

**Best in show:** Rosemary Laurent's mixed media painting of a pensive woman in profile, *Sometimes Love Isn't Enough*, takes the best in show prize from juror Michael Joseph at the "56th Anniversary Show" at Broward Art Guild in Fort Lauderdale. Second place goes to Rick Esposito for his acrylic geometric painting *Grid*, while

third place belongs to Dagmar Crosby for her oil painting of a duet called "I Love Chopin."

For sheer emotional power, nothing tops the Katrina-inspired *Last Rites in Louisiana*, an oil painting by Audrey Zraket of a small boy cradled in the arms of a young man, watched by a father and a son. We don't see the face of a woman in a white dress holding a candle, but she adds an important element in this work of reverence.

Elaine Evans is a recipient of one of several judge's recognitions for her pleasing clay and mixed media church altar called *It's Life's Illusions I*, featuring a Southwest aesthetic. Call 954-396-3213 or visit [browardartguild.org](http://browardartguild.org).

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